Folio-2

SHORT OBSERVATIONS

ON A

SHORT ADDRESS

TO THE

PUBLIC,

IN A

LETTER to LORD C****.

Parturiunt Montes, naſcetur ridiculus Mus.

HOR.

LONDON.

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MDCCLIX.

A

LETTER, &c.

MY LORD,

WHEN the incloſed Addreſs appeared, my Curioſity was excited to buy one of them; and now I ſend it you, with my Obſervations upon it. I was ſurpriſed to find a Preamble to it as long as one of thoſe which we find uſually prefixed to an Act of Parliament made in King *Charles* the Second's Time. After ſome Blunders, I got through this Preamble. It promiſed much —— ſo much, that I thought the Mountain in labour——which brought forth——no more than I expected.

I was

I was ſo diſappointed in not finding *thoſe Orders*, every where talked of, that I began to reflect, this Addreſs, inſtead of pacifying, might exaſperate. If this ſhould be the Caſe, of which I hope there is no Probability, *God give him Patience under all his Sufferings; ſend him an happy Iſſue out of all his Afflictions, and ſtrengthen him that he may vanquiſh, and overcome all his Enemies. Let not the firſt of Auguſt be named among the Days of the Year. Let the Day, in which was fought the Battle of M——n be eraſed out of our Calendar, even the Day in which it was ſaid, Part of our Army ſtood ſtill.*

The Admoniſher ſays, He is debarred from ſtating his Caſe to the Public. I hope he is not debarred from laying thoſe Orders before the Public, which he received from the Prince's Aid de Camp? But, perhaps, he cannot recollect them. Certainly he could have told us the Purport: For the Public's Diſcontent ſeems to have been founded on them, *whether they were obeyed? Or, whether they could be obeyed?* Now, without theſe Orders, it does not ſeem the public Opinion will be altered. Indeed it were to be wiſhed, as well for his Service as our Satisfaction, we had been made acquainted with them. I am perſuaded they would, in a great Meaſure, have ſilenced the Petulence of Report. Surely this cannot be called ſtating the Caſe; and while he had the Liberty of the Preſs, I apprehend, there was no Obſtacle.

In his Letter to the Secretary of State, he obſerves, That he has been publicly repreſented of having neglected his Duty, and diſobeying the poſitive Orders of the Prince. But while we have not theſe Orders, Where is the Advantage of this Addreſs? It does not ſay, Whether they were obeyed. Indeed, he ſays, He is not conſcious of any Diſobedience. Admiral *Byng* ſaid much to the ſame Effect, "He was not conſcious of either having diſobeyed or neglected his Majeſty's Duty." Yet we are not obliged to take his *ipſe dixit*, and, as *Hudibras* ſays,

He that's convinc'd againſt his Will,
Is in the ſame Opinion ſtill.

But it may be obſerved, and with no Impropriety, that the bare Aſſertion does not convince us. Mr. *Byng*, without ſomething elſe, could not make the Public believe it; they ſtill doubted its Veracity, and adhered to their former Opinion; and does the incloſed Addreſs ſay any thing we all did not know before? Are any of the Facts advanced there of ſuch ſufficient Weight to make us alter our Opinion? For my Part, my Lord, my Sentiment is the ſame, ſince I read it, it was before, which I informed you in my laſt; and, I think, the Public are as they were.

This

This Morning at ——'s I met Mr. G—— who had the Addreſs in his Pocket. He read it over and after a ſhort Conſideration pronounced it by an Appellation I need not repeat; you know his Way. But, ſays he, if one of us little Fellows had done ſo in the Days of *Old Noll*, when it was hang well, and pay well, I know how the Caſe would have been, if there had been a Tree in the Neighbourhood. If the Plan of a Battle is to be referred to, which can give no juſt Idea of it! I ſuppoſe from this, ſays G——, he means the Plans are falſe, Why then in the Name of Wonder does he not give us a correct one? Surely he is not *debarred from doing that*! and when his Hand is in, let him ſcribble down thoſe *real* Orders, and the Public will then be indebted to him for *ſomething*; but he need not do it in the Form of an Addreſs, continues G——, for he may do it in a Criticiſm on the Public, and that will do better, becauſe from a Petitioner, he will become petitioned.

However, my Lord, I ſhall obſerve on Mr. G——, that what he ſays, in ſome Caſes, may be right, particularly the Plan of the Battle; for then we may expect to ſee thoſe *actual* Diſpoſitions of the Cavalry which *did* exiſt; and ſurely they will be accompanied with thoſe Orders for Attacks and Purſuits which *were* delivered. The Public will then, in my Opinion, know as much, as at preſent, they want to know.

Admiral

Admiral *Knowles*, to clear his Character of the Aſperſions thrown upon it, concerning the *Rochfort* Expedition, publiſhed a Chart of *Baſque* Road, with the Soundings. And, I think, Admiral *Byng* publiſhed the Diſpoſitions of his Ships in the Engagement on the 20th of *May* 1756.

But, my LORD, I will not intrude on your Leiſure any longer: You may be aſſured I ſhall ſend whatever is publiſhed, immediately.

I am,

MY LORD,

&c. &c. &c.

POSTSCRIPT.

Perhaps the Admoniſher does not at preſent intend to publiſh his Defence, or chuſe to give the Public any Satisfaction concerning the Myſteries they ſeem ſo deſirous of having unriddled; but reſerves theſe important Articles 'till a Court-Martial ſhall be held, from which I ſhall be extremely glad to hear he is acquitted.

FINIS.